IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

1-10. (CANCELLED)

11. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The arithmetic and logic unit as claimed in claim 12, wherein the fourth part performs initialization based on prediction information given to the branch instruction.

12. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An arithmetic and logic unit comprising:
a first part performing a branch prediction in response to a branch instruction;
a second part updating a transition probability of the branch prediction according to whether a branch is actually made;
a third part detecting that a process is switched; and
a fourth part initializing branch prediction information when the third part detects that the process is switched,
wherein the fourth part performs initialization according to a branch destination of the branch instruction.

13. (CANCELLED)

14. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as claimed in claim 15, wherein said initializing comprises performing initialization based on prediction information given to the branch instruction.

15. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A branch prediction method comprising:
performing a branch prediction in response to a branch instruction;
updating a transition probability of the branch prediction according to whether a branch is

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actually made;

detecting that a process is switched; and

initializing branch prediction information when said detecting detects that the process is switched,

wherein said initializing comprises performing initialization according to a branch destination of the branch instruction.

16. (CANCELLED)

17. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The information processing apparatus as claimed in claim 18, wherein the fourth part performs initialization based on prediction information given to the branch instruction.

18. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An information processing apparatus comprising:

a first part performing a branch prediction in response to a branch instruction;

a second part updating a transition probability of the branch prediction according to whether a branch is actually made;

a third part detecting that a process is switched; and

a fourth part initializing branch prediction information when the third part detects that the process is switched,

wherein the fourth part performs initialization according to a branch destination of the branch instruction.